

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended). A polymeric construct comprising an alginic acid or salt thereof ~~a polysaccharide polymer having a selected medicament entrapped therewithin~~ insulin associated therewith, prepared from a preparation consisting essentially of said polymer and said insulin.

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

Claim 2 (Cancelled). The construct as defined in claim 1 wherein said polymer comprises alginic acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Please cancel claim 3 without prejudice.

Claim 3 (Cancelled). The construct as defined in claim 1 wherein said medicament comprises a protein or peptide medicament having a molecular size ranging from about 1K Dalton to about 150K Daltons.

Please cancel claim 4 without prejudice.

Claim 4 (Cancelled). The construct as defined in claim 3 wherein said medicament comprises insulin.

Please cancel claim 5 without prejudice.

Claim 5 (Cancelled). The construct as defined in claim 3 wherein said medicament comprises insulin.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

Claim ~~6~~² (Currently amended). The construct of claim 2 1 wherein said polymer is present in an amount of about 0.0000001 to about 10 percent by weight of said construct.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

Claim ~~7~~³ (Currently amended). A method of preparing the construct of claim 1 which comprises, combining said polymer with said ~~medicament~~ insulin to form a mixture; subjecting said mixture to agitation or mixing at a temperature of about -5 to about 28°C for about 0.1 to about 96 hours to form the construct.

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

Claim ~~8~~⁴ (Currently amended). A method of preparing the construct of claim 1 which comprises, dissolving said polymer and said ~~medicament~~ insulin in a solvent to form a solution; exposing said solution to a critical pressure and temperature while mixing with a suitable anti-solvent to form the construct.

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

Claim ~~9~~⁵ (Currently amended). A method of preparing the construct of claim 1 which comprises, dispersing said polymer in a solution of said ~~medicament~~ insulin to form a dispersion; subjecting said dispersion to a critical pressure and temperature while mixing with an appropriate anti-solvent to separate the construct after about 0.0001 to about 24 hours.

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

Claim ~~10~~⁶ (Currently amended). A method of preparing the construct of claim 1 which comprises, dissolving said polymer in a solution of said ~~medicament~~ insulin to form a polymer solution and drying said polymer solution as a spray for about 0.1 to about 8 hours.

Claim ~~11~~⁷ (Original). The method as defined in claim ~~8~~⁴ wherein particles of such construct range from under 20 micrometers, to under 10 micrometers in diameter.

Claim ~~12~~⁸ (Original). The method as defined in claim ~~9~~⁵ wherein particles of such construct are under 20 micrometers in diameter.

Claim ~~13~~⁹ (Original). The method as defined in claim ~~10~~⁶ wherein particles of such construct are about 10 micrometers to about 20 micrometers in diameter.

Claim ~~14~~¹⁰ (Original). The method as defined in claim ~~11~~⁷ wherein particles of such construct range from under 10 micrometers to about 20 micrometers in diameter.